

Educating with Extension



By Brynn Morey, Extension Coordinator, and in collaboration with Alicia Betancourt, Shelly Krueger, and Michelle Leonard-Mularz

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Plant Clinics

EVERY TUESDAY & 3rd SATURDAY OF THE MONTH

Email Monroe@ifas.ufl.edu or call (305)292-4501 to register!

Plant Clinic Plus!

Along with answering all of your plant/insect questions, we will also start each clinic with a brief topical discussion. See topics and dates below:

October 6th:
New Pests of Concern

October 13th:
Soil Considerations for the Keys

October 17th:
TBD

October 20th:
Different Composting Techniques

October 27th:
Common Scale Insect Pests



2021 Horseshoe Crab Census!

Free VIRTUAL Training Course

By Shelly Krueger, Sea Grant Agent

The oldest animal fossil ever found was from a horseshoe crab that was alive 445 million years ago. Horseshoe crabs roamed the continental shelves of the primordial seas 200 million years before the dinosaurs! For this reason, horseshoe crabs are real living fossils. Horseshoe crabs are not actually crabs, their closest ocean cousins are sea spiders and they are related to spiders, ticks, and mites. Some people think their tail is a stinger, but that isn't true either – since they do not have arms they use their tail (called the telson) to turn them right side up when they get flipped over. Horseshoe crabs are harmless to humans. In fact, if you have ever had surgery you may have a horseshoe crab to thank for preventing you from getting an infection. They have blue copper-based blood that clots when it encounters bacteria, so the medical industry uses horseshoe crab blood to ensure products placed inside the human body are sterile.

Horseshoe crabs can live more than 20 years and do not begin to reproduce until they turn 8-10 years old. Around that age, the males and females have one final molt, where they shed their old shells to grow larger. The males grow "boxing gloves" on their front claws, which they use to hold on to the female during mating season. Sometimes the smaller male will stay attached to the larger female for several weeks at a time, and the female drags him around behind her up to the beach to lay eggs and then back underwater to eat clams and worms.



(photo above) Horseshoe crabs mating

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Sea Grant News



Shelly Krueger
UF/IFAS Florida Sea Grant Agent

Shelly recently accomplished the following activities:

- Shelly is co-lead of the Florida Disease Response Communications and Outreach Team and helped to produce the Florida Stony Coral Tissue Loss Disease Response Bulletin - Summer 2020. The bulletin provides updates of all 9 teams involved in the response to stony coral tissue loss disease.



- Shelly was invited to present at the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary Water Quality Protection Program on Marinas and Liveaboards and Emerging Pollutants of Concern. Shelly is an appointed member of the steering committee, who met virtually in joint session with Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council to discuss water quality priorities developed over the past year by the Water Quality Priorities Working Group, which Shelly is also a member and helped to develop the strategic planning.

- Shelly was interviewed by Nancy Klingener with the South Florida NPR station, WLRN 91.3 FM about the Florida Horseshoe Crab Watch. (*interview link below*)

<https://www.wlrn.org/2020-10-01/getting-crabby-for-a-cause-scientists-look-for-help-documenting-horseshoe-crabs>

- Shelly wrote a blog for the new virtual training for citizen scientists to collect data for the FWC horseshoe crab stock assessment. (*Training linked below*)

<https://blogs.ifas.ufl.edu/monroeco/2020/09/29/2020-florida-horseshoe-crab-watch-census-free-virtual-training-course/>



Environmental Horticulture Program and Master Gardener Volunteers remain dedicated to helping you with your plant related questions.



CALL OUR OFFICE:
(305)292-4501

We have many different ways we can assist!

EMAIL YOUR QUESTIONS TO:
mastergardener@monroecounty-fl.gov

Please include a detailed description of the problem and photos if available

ZOOM PLANT CLINICS:

Every Tuesday & 3rd Saturday of the month!!
Email Monroe@ifas.ufl.edu or
Call (305)292-4501 to Register

FACEBOOK PAGE:

Visit our Facebook page for updates, requests, information and so much more!

<https://www.facebook.com/MonroeCountyExtension/>

Horticulture News



Michelle Leonard-Mularz
UF/IFAS Environmental Horticulture Agent

Michelle recently accomplished the following activities:

- Michelle presented at the Extension Professional Associations of Florida's (EPAF) annual conference on utilizing Microsoft Teams with Master Gardener Volunteers for virtual-based horticulture consultations.



- Michelle worked with the City of Key West, Key West Tropical Forest & Botanical Garden and the Sea Grant agent, Shelly Krueger, on coordination of coastal seaweed disposal for a composting project. The project will look at decomposition rates and salinity.



- The 2020 Master Gardener Course began this month with 30 participants. This is a 10-week course where the Master Gardener trainees learn about all aspects of gardening and growing plants to help assist the agent with residential gardening questions and sustainable, Florida Friendly Landscaping outreach.

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Extension Director's News

Alicia Betancourt

UF/IFAS Family and Community Development Agent and
Monroe County Extension Director

Alicia recently accomplished the following activities:

- Alicia developed a free online "Climate Smart Kids" for educators in Florida. She taught 164 participants how to find and use the curriculum. ([link below](#))



<https://sites.google.com/ufl.edu/climatesmartfloridaforkids/climate-change-lessons/climate-change-basics>



- Alicia worked with the Southeast Florida Climate Compact to develop a municipal climate assessment tool (C-CAT) including priority actions in mitigation and adaptation for the 108 regional municipalities.
- Alicia educated 21 elderly participants on phishing scams and how to resolve consumer issues through an online workshop.

- Alicia planned SeaGrant's "Climate Smart Florida" fall curriculum development including website development, Municipal Handbook, Climate 101 training and Climate Smart Kids programming.



- Alicia produced a 20-minute video "Welcome to Extension" for the incoming Master Gardener class.
- Alicia worked with the City of Key west and stakeholders to revise the city's 10 Year Energy Plan

Continued from page 1

We know very little about the horseshoe crab population size or the location of nesting beaches in Monroe County. People regularly report males attached to females and seeing quarter-sized babies so we suspect horseshoe crabs are breeding year around in the Florida Keys. Shelly Krueger is a marine biologist and the Monroe County coordinator of the Florida Horseshoe Crab Watch, which is a partnership with the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission and Florida Sea Grant. The free 1.5-hour training course is now virtual, register today by following the link below:

<https://ifas-ncbs.catalog.instructure.com/courses/florida-horseshoe-crab-watch-virtual-volunteer-training>.



We are looking for volunteers to count, measure, weigh, and tag horseshoe crabs nesting on beaches in the Florida Keys. Information is needed for the first horseshoe crab stock assessment in Florida. If you do not want to take the training but still want to report horseshoe crabs, you can call our office at the Monroe County Extension or use the smartphone app called FWC Reporter, which is a great application for reporting all kinds of animals and invasive species sightings.

For more information, please contact Shelly Krueger, Florida Sea Grant agent for the UF/IFAS Monroe County Extension, 305-292-4501 or shellykrueger@ufl.edu.



Linked with Limulus

Link to Shelly's Blog:

<http://blogs.ifas.ufl.edu/monroeco/2020/09/29/2020-florida-horseshoe-crab-watch-census-free-virtual-training-course/>

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UF IFAS Extension

UNIVERSITY of FLORIDA



UF/IFAS/MONROE COUNTY EXTENSION

1100 Simonton Street, Suite 2-260, Key West, FL 33040
102050 Overseas Hwy., Suite 244, Key Largo, FL 33037

KW Phone: 305-292-4501 KL Phone: 305-453-8747
KW Fax: 305-292-4415 KL Fax: 305-453-8749

General e-mail: monroe@ifas.ufl.edu

County Extension Director: Alicia Betancourt

Newsletter Editor: Brynn Morey, Extension Coordinator

This newsletter can be accessed online at:

<http://monroe.ifas.ufl.edu/newsletter.shtml>

We're on the Web at: <http://monroe.ifas.ufl.edu>



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UF/IFAS Extension is
Putting Florida First

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directly to our
UF/IFAS Website for
more information!



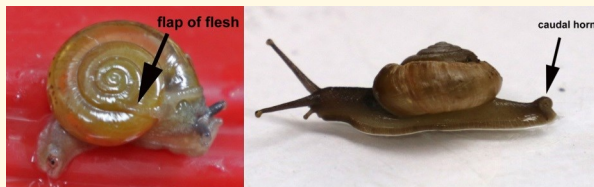
NEW PEST ALERT!

The Hornail Snail, *Macrochlamys indica*, was discovered in Miami-Dade County in August. An eradication program is now underway to stop the spread of this federally regulated pest. This is the first occurrence of this pest in the United States and could become a significant pest for Florida's agricultural industry if not stopped. The hornail snail is a major pest in India, feeding on lettuce, beans, yams, and chrysanthemums.

IDENTIFICATION: It has a delicate amber-colored shell, the size of a dime, and a fleshy caudal horn at the tip of its tail. Additionally, there is a flap of flesh that extends backwards onto or around the shell, when relaxed. This differentiates it from other terrestrial snails in the state.

CONCERNS: the hornail snail has the potential to be a host of rat lung worm, which can cause meningitis in humans. Gloves should be worn when handling the snail.

For more information visit: <https://www.fdacs.gov/Divisions-Offices/Plant-Industry/Plant-Industry-Publications/Pest-Alerts>



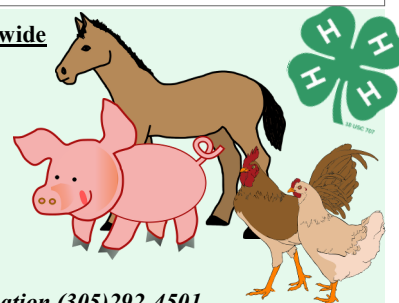
Photos by Elijah J. Talamas, FDACS-DPI.

UF/IFAS/MCES QUARTERLY CONTACTS

	July	Aug	Sept	Totals
Phone calls	57	36	44	137
Office visitors	0	0	20	20
Email Consultations	191	154	135	480
Learning events	57	34	37	128
Participants	598	454	1065	2117
Media submissions	58	5	7	70
Publications distributed	182	75	150	407
TOTAL contacts	1143	758	1458	3359

4-H Virtual Clubs Offered Statewide

- Digital Dairy
- Florida 4-H Virtual Horse Club
- Florida 4-H Virtual Poultry Club
- Florida 4-H Virtual Swine Club
- Teen Life Ready Club
- Young Leaders Club



Please contact our office for more information (305)292-4501

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